

## A LIFE SKETCH

Jacob S. Mauney was born on April 6th, 1846 near Cherryville in Gaston County. He was but 15 years old when the War Between the States broke out. Two years later, when 17, he enlisted in the 72nd Regiment of North Carolina Troops and served throughout the remainder of the war. His outfit was first stationed at Wilmington to guard the bridge and ferry. While there he accomplished the feat of swimming the Cape Fear River at its widest point, an accomplishment regarded then as unusual.

As a youthful soldier in the Confederate Army he displayed in his first battle, an engagement at Kinston, the courage which enabled him later to contend with adverse conditions and win success. A picket had been shot and the regular stretcher-bearers hesitated to go out of the trenches to get him. Volunteers were called for and he and two others volunteered to go out and attempt his rescue. Before they reached their fallen fellow soldier a rain of bullets from the enemy met them. They had a miraculous escape, accomplishing the rescue of their co-patriot. A moment after they had left the spot it was torn to pieces by an exploding bomb.

During the two years or more he was in the Confederate Army Mr. Mauney was in several engagements and, like all other Confederate soldiers, saw much hardship and suffering. Returning home at 20, he, like thousands of other young men of that day, found that they had to start life at the bottom. For a time he engaged in farming.

On September 11, 1873, he married Margaret Juletta Rudisill, a daughter of John and Mary E. (Smith) Rudisill, of Lincoln County. Mrs. Margaret Juletta Mauney was born January 26, 1850. Shortly after their marriage they located where the town of Kings Mountain now is and Mr. Mauney with his brother, W. Andrew Mauney, opened a small general merchandise store. At that time the railroad was being built and he rode a work-train into Charlotte to purchase the stock of goods.

Shortly after that the railroad was completed through Kings Mountain and the town began to grow. The Mauney brothers, Jacob and Andrew, pioneered in practically every line of endeavor in the new town.

Mr. Mauney was among the organizers of the town's first cotton mill, the Kings Mountain Manufacturing Company, in 1888. Later he was interested in the organization and building of the Bonnie, Dilling, Mauney and Sadie mills. Throughout a long and active life Mr. Mauney was closely identified with the mercantile, banking and manufacturing life of the town as well as with its religious, civic, and educational growth.